

# JJAG Minutes 9/17/2021

**Members Present-** Jill Ward (Chair), Ned Chester (Vice Chair), Christine Thibeault, Gail Wasserman, Colin O'Neill, Bonnie Porta, Bishop Steve Coleman, Jonathan Shapiro, Todd Landry, Atlee Reilly, Page Nichols, Tessa Mosher, Debra Baeder, Christopher Northrop, Regina Phillips, Lt. Patrick Hood.

**Members Absent:** Kaitlyn Megathlin, Gifford Campbell, Sienna Dana, Marta Haydym, Taheim Brimage, Abier Ibrahim, Mike Freysinger, Elizabeth Ward Saxl, Hon. Maria Woodman, Tracey Horton.

**JJAG Staff Present-** Linda Barry Potter (Compliance Monitor and Acting JJ Specialist)

**DOC Staff Present:** Anwar Whiting (RED/DOC Credible Messenger Coordinator), Sonja Morse (Data and Research Coordinator) and Steve Labonte (JCCO).

**Public Attendees:** Alice Preble, Bruce King, Mary Lou Michael, Hashim Allah, Luc Nya, Callie Ferguson, Margo Fine, Leigh Ashley, Savo, Jess Mizzi.

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**Call to Order:** 9:08am

**Minutes:** Approval of 7/16/2021 Meeting Minutes. Motion to approve by Debra Bader; 2nd by Regina Phillips. **Adopted by unanimous vote.**

**JJ Specialist Report (*Linda Barry Potter*):**

*Budget report:* See attached spreadsheet. FY2017 budget on track to close on 9/30/21.

*Contracts:* All contracts voted on are on track. Crisis Response RFP moving through purchasing and should be posted shortly.

*OJJDP Desk Audit:* Working on recommendations from OJJDP re: JJAG developing certain policies and procedures. Governance Committee will work with Linda on this.

*OJJDP Solicitation:* Waiting final approval for FY21 solicitation. Need to begin work on filling vacant SAG appointments. Jill/Linda to lead that process.

*Compliance Monitoring:* Completed for this fiscal year. No visit in September to Aroostook Boys & Girls Clubs due to Covid concerns.

*Email Google Groups:* Setting up two lists going forward 1) JJAG Voting Members for members only to execute email votes, etc. 2) JJAG Information for members and anyone else who wants to get the meeting notices and other information and updates.

CJJ RED Conference scheduled for Nov 1-3 is now virtual. Please let Linda know if you want to attend.

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## Agency Presentations

**DHHS/OCFS (Todd Landry):** See slide deck for information presented by Dr. Landry with updates from DHHS, including MaineCare rate increases, provider trainings, the Triple P program, expansion of the crisis aftercare pilot statewide, substance use disorder services for youth and work around establishing a PRTF. Shared announcement that Maine's Family First plan was approved – 1<sup>st</sup> New England state and 15<sup>th</sup> in the nation. More information can be found here: [Federal Government Approves Maine's Plan To Protect Children and Strengthen Families](#)

Question about workforce development and whether any work is being done with the colleges to encourage work with children and families and especially the adolescents we see. The agency is offering free training and Behavioral Health Profession certification. Trying to expand medical workforce definition and include behavioral health at the college and university level. Also need to support our current professionals in the field. Grants for current home and community-based providers (retention and recruitment bonuses). This is a short-term effort, and the federal government needs to approve state's plan. To target young healthcare professionals the state is using some of the money through LD 1733 for recruitment, including outreach to communities of color.

**DOE (Jonathan Shapiro & Page Nichols):** Supporting schools around Covid surge, through training and guidance. Positive SRO Conference and feedback. Developing school emergency plans; hoping to have RJ Coordinator hired very soon. Working on \$2.5 million Federal grant for suicide reduction and threat assessments. New school administrators training on safety plans in the works; anticipating increased mental health needs of both students and educators. DOE is in the final stages of hiring a diversity/inclusion coordinator.

**DOC (Colin O'Neill):** Colin shared that he is leaving as Associate Commissioner role. Reflected on past 7 years in this role, over saw some great work, good changes. LCYDC Superintendent did resign, investigations ongoing. Mark Soler and the Children's Center for Law and Policy has been engaged by MDOC to look at the incidents and MDOC response. Jill & Colin gave a presentation on the Regional Care Teams (RCT) at the 9/7 Children's Cabinet meeting. Noted it would be good to give same presentation to the JJAG at October meeting. USM/MCJPAL working on a quantitative/qualitative report on RCT initiative which should be released in October. Thanks to JJAG members who provided feedback on revised risk assessment tool for detention. MDOC will be putting out a survey to stakeholders (please share far and wide) regarding where money diverted from LCYDC should be deployed in the communities of Maine; please share widely. RJ Coordinator interviews being held next week.

**DPS (Lt Patrick Hood):** No updates.

## Committee Reports:

**Executive Committee (Jill Ward):** Website is coming along, deadline for completion is end of Sept; everyone will get a chance to review and provide feedback before it goes live. Task Force role to transition into the JJAG, as JJAG paid for the assessment and work on recommendations from that

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assessment continues to be implemented. October there will be a final report from Mark Soler/CCLP and Task Force members will be invited to attend. Several open seats on the JJAG that need to be filled, local elected official, tribal representatives, youth engagement seats, etc. Linda and Jill will move this forward, any recommendations please send names to Linda or Jill.

*RED/DMC Committee* (Bishop Steve Coleman): No major updates. Will reschedule the retreat. Need to get RFP acknowledgements in RFP for training approved last meeting can go to Purchasing for processing/posting.

*Systems Improvement Committee* (Atlee Riley):

Crisis Response RFP will be posted very soon. Implementation date will be closer to 11/15/2021 than 10/01/2021. USM has hired coordinator for Youth Network and we will be working with them to identify youth members for the JJAG and in building out the structure of the network to support youth engagement broadly. Possibly have an update from them for the October meeting.

*Legislative Committee* (Christine Thibeault): The JJAG is co-hosting with the Maine Center for Juvenile Policy and Law and the Maine Prosecutors Association an online, half-day training on Friday, October 1, 2021 from 8:30am-12:30pm. The training will be all virtual and begin with a plenary session for all participants, followed by breakout meetings for specific disciplines. It is designed to educate attorneys and other juvenile justice professionals regarding statutory changes to the Maine Juvenile Code that have already taken effect and those that will take effect in October and January. Registration information will be forwarded to the JJAG. Please share with anyone you think would be interested. Student project at MCJPAL completed a legislative summary that can be found here: [Maine Juvenile Justice Legislative Update 2021](#).

*Governance Committee* (Christine Thibeault):

Work on revising the by-laws continues. Next committee meeting 10/04 at 4 PM.

**Next Meeting:** Friday, October 15, 2021 at 9am.

**Adjourn:** 10:36 am